

MINUTES
STATE BOARD FOR COMMUNITY AND JUNIOR COLLEGES
SEPTEMBER 20, 2002

The regular meeting of the State Board for Community and Junior Colleges was held on Friday, September 20, 2002, at 9:00 a.m., in Room 507 of the Education and Research Center in Jackson, Mississippi.

Members present: Major General Denver Brackeen, Mrs. Veldore Heidelberg, Dr. Dorothy Nelson, Ms. Patricia Randall, Mr. George Walker, Mr. Lawrence Warren, and Mrs. Brenda Yonge.

Members absent: Mrs. Sara Fox, Mr. Napoleon Moore, and Mr. Jimmy Murphy.

Staff in attendance: Dr. Wayne Stonecypher, Ms. Debbie Borgman, Dr. Randall Bradberry, Dr. Larry Day, Mrs. Sandra Lucas, Mr. Ray Smith, Mrs. Denise Walley, Dr. Evelyn Webb, and Ms. Frankie White.

Guests in attendance: Dr. Gregg Jefcoat – Itawamba Community College; Dr. Bill Smith and Mr. Pete Walley – IHL; Ms. Shirley Martin – Mississippi State Department of Education; and Dr. Tommy Davis and Dr. Ed. Davis – East Mississippi Community College.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman George Walker called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. All guests present introduced themselves.

PRELIMINARIES

Mrs. Brenda Yonge gave the invocation.

Approval of Minutes of August 15 and 16, 2002, Meetings

Upon a motion by Mr. Lawrence Warren and a second by Mrs. Brenda Yonge, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the August 15 and 16, 2002, meetings.

Review and Approval of Agenda

Upon a motion by Major General Denver Brackeen and a second by Mrs. Patricia Randall, the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda as presented.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dr. Wayne Stonecypher related that the search for a person to fill the Director of Affiliated Activities position is continuing.

Dr. Stonecypher gave a report on NIST, a national group working with industrial training and specifically geared to manufacturing. The grant program was housed at the University of Southern Mississippi and now will be operated for a one-year period out of Maine. A decision has now been made to move the grant under the auspices of the Mississippi Technology Alliance (MTA). Dr. Stonecypher is meeting with representatives of MTA to work out details on how the community colleges can participate.

Dr. Stonecypher asked Dr. Evelyn Webb to give a report on the Gear-Up Grant program. Dr. Webb took part in a press conference on Tuesday, September 17, 2002, to announce the launch of GEAR-UP MS (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness of Undergraduate Progress) (Exhibit A). For over three years, staff members from the Institutions of Higher Learning (IHL), Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) and SBCJC have been working to secure a grant that would target middle school students who do not traditionally make plans for entering college. Mississippi was recently awarded a \$12,500,000 grant to be used in 34 school districts in the state to target middle school students and begin offering services that will help prepare them for college. The grant will target five areas: (1) family and community outreach, (2) tutoring and mentoring, (3) professional support for teachers, counselors and administrators, (4) technology resources, network and integrated support, and (5) access to post-secondary training opportunities and scholarship sources. The successful administration of this grant will increase the number of these students who enter higher education.

Dr. Stonecypher distributed to each Board member a copy of the MACJC Regional Legislative Meeting schedule. He encouraged Board members to attend any meeting in their area.

Dr. Stonecypher stated that the SBCJC, along with 30 other agencies, had been asked to sign a Memorandum of Agreement with Nissan. Mrs. Brenda Yonge made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lawrence Warren, that the SBCJC authorize Dr. Wayne Stonecypher to sign the Memorandum of Agreement with Nissan. Motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Stonecypher reported that the SBCJC had been chosen to receive a \$5,000,000 federal grant from the U. S. Department of Labor earmarked for support of the automotive industry in Madison County. The grant would provide funding for start-up training for Nissan suppliers.

Dr. Stonecypher announced that Southwest Mississippi Community College is honoring college president, Dr. Horace C. Holmes, for 50 years of service. A plaque is being prepared and will be presented to Dr. Holmes on behalf of the SBCJC at the Celebration set for October 18, 2002.

Dr. Stonecypher distributed a copy of the Mississippi Virtual Community College (MSVCC) Enrollment Report for the Fall Semester 2002 (Exhibit B). He reported that a meeting of the leaders of a SACS committee at Eagle Ridge Conference Center was held to plan for the MSVCC accreditation visit in February 2003.

Dr. Stonecypher stated that SBCJC staff is researching Cornerstone Correspondence School. Cornerstone is a private school located in Townsend, Georgia. For a fee, Cornerstone will send an individual a test battery for completion. If the individual received a passing score, he/she is mailed a high school diploma. Cornerstone is not recognized by the Georgia Department of Education or the U. S. Department of Education. Concern has arisen because SBCJC Standards for Quality and Accountability states that students will be accepted for admission with a high school diploma. SBCJC staff will bring a recommendation for action to the Board at a later date.

Dr. Stonecypher reported that SBCJC staff is working on the GED diploma/transcript policy that charges \$5.00 for a duplicate. The policy requires a money order or cashier's check. Some companies have complained and SBCJC staff is researching an amicable solution to the situation.

Dr. Stonecypher informed the Board that he would be attending an ACT meeting in Iowa City Iowa on October 17, 2002, and would not be able to attend the evening meeting. After a discussion Mrs. Veldore Heidelberg made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lawrence Warren, the Board voted unanimously to change the date of the October meetings to October 24 and 25, 2002, contingent upon Board approval.

MACJC Report

Dr. Tommy Davis gave a report on the activities of the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges.

Dr. Tommy Davis gave a brief report on a recent visit to Camp Shelby. The Mississippi National Guard issued an invitation to the presidents to come to Camp Shelby and see first-hand the Youth Challenge and military programs being offered.

Warrant Officer Dave W. Thomas and Lieutenant Colonel Henry G. Bernreuter with the Mississippi National Guard presented a request for part-time office space on community and junior college campuses to house recruiters. The recruiters would provide students with information related to opportunities available through the Guard. The program provides assistance in paying the student's tuition.

Dr. Dewey Herring addressed the Association with regard to the Mississippi Education Involvement Program developed to help Mississippians create and implement a state roadmap for educational, economic, and social progress. The program will advance the competitiveness of our state and improve the quality of life for Mississippi citizens. The Association voted unanimously to support the initiative.

Dr. Davis appointed the following individuals to serve on the Committee for Career-Technical Education Study Issues: Dr. David Cole, Chair, Dr. William Lewis, Dr. Phil Sutphin, Mr. Donald Benjamin, Ms. Anna Faye Kelley-Winders, Mr. Louis Dugas, Dr. George Huffman, and Dr. Wayne Stonecypher. The committee's charge is to examine the nuts and bolts issues involved in the transfer of post secondary career-technical programs from the Mississippi State Department of Education to the SBCJC, and to make recommendations to the Association.

Dr. Davis gave a brief report on the SBCJC Funding Formula Study meeting with MGT, Inc., representative, Dr. Mary McKeown-Moak. The recommendations from MGT are due by November 1, 2002.

Dr. Davis gave a brief update on the economic impact study being done by CCBenefits. He stated that the colleges believe the study can be very important in justifying to the state legislators, local boards of supervisors, and constituents across the state another aspect of the value of the community colleges that might be overlooked. The presidents are negotiating with CCBenefits to receive an additional report indicating the economic impact the colleges have on individual counties.

Concern was expressed that more attention is being paid to the budget cuts IHL and K-12 public school received, while the deep cuts the community colleges have had seem to be

overlooked. Dr. Davis appointed a committee to develop a statement showing the impact budget cuts have had on the community colleges.

Dr. Davis briefly recapped the schedule for the MACJC Regional Legislative meetings. He encouraged Board members to attend a meeting close their home. Mrs. Brenda Yonge made a motion, seconded by Dr. Dorothy Nelson, to approve the travel of any SBCJC member that attends an MACJC Regional Legislative meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

MS Association of Collegiate Registrars & Admissions Officers (MACRAO)

Dr. Gregg Jefcoat, President of the MS Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (MACRAO), gave a report on that organization to the Board. MACRAO offers registrars and admissions officers opportunities for professional development, gives them a local voice in policy and procedures development, helps build relationships throughout the system, and gives the organization a national presence. Dr. Jefcoat stated that registrars and admissions personnel are involved in the funding process at the colleges based on admissions criteria being met. They are also responsible for making sure that instructors' credentials meet SACS criteria. Integrity is an essential quality for the office of admissions and records as official keepers of student information. These personnel play a vital part in planning for and completing the registration process at the colleges. The registrars and admissions personnel certify the eligibility of athletes and product the Halbrook Award report showing graduation rates for athletes. Dr. Jefcoat thanked the Board for the opportunity to come and share information on MACRAO. Dr. Jefcoat is the Registrar at Itawamba Community College.

Vocational and Technical Education Discussion Workgroup

Mr. Pete Walley discussed the activities of a workgroup he chairs to work on issues related to the transfer of vocational and technical education from the MDE to the SBCJC. The workgroup is exploring how to enhance and/or improve the effectiveness of the state's vocational/technical system. Mr. Walley's workgroup was established to bring all involved parties to the table to participate in discussion and resolve issues of concern.

The 24-member workgroup has held two meetings. The first meeting examined today's workforce situation and how people are positioned presently and how the programs could be improved and enhanced to help provide a more prepared workforce. The second meeting dealt with technical issues. A third meeting is scheduled for October 31, 2002, and he invited any and all the Board to attend and participate. At that meeting, Best Practices of other states will be examined. A fourth meeting will be held prior to Thanksgiving to look at a consensus process and a final copy will be developed for distribution to the MACJC, SBCJC, and other partners.

Mr. Walley also discussed the Manufacturing Extension Partnership, a federal initiative to provide help to manufacturing firms with technical issues. Efforts are ongoing to re-position the partnership into the Mississippi Technology Alliance (MTA). Dr. Stonecypher, as SBCJC Executive Director, sits on the Board of Directors of the MTA. MTA is a public/private non-profit group trying to get a focus on some of the manufacturing sections in which Mississippi could excel. Four sectors identified are: (1) forestry and wood products, (2) automotive, (3) plastic and polymers, and (4) communications and information technology.

Plans are being developed to move this program to a statewide mechanism to carryout the

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program. Currently \$1,200,000 in federal match funds could be utilized by the State. The process would require cash and in-kind contributions from the Mississippi partnership to retain the program in the State. Mr. Walker suggested that the item be added to the October agenda for further discussion and possible action. Mr. Lawrence Warren made a motion, seconded by Ms. Patricia Randall, that the SBCJC support the concept of the partnership. Motion passed unanimously.

*The meeting recessed at 10:30 a.m. and reconvened at 10:40 a.m.

Workforce Report

Chairman George Walker updated the Board on the activities of the State Workforce Development Council (SWDC). At the meeting last week, Mr. Walker, named a committee to review the RTS, Inc. report and bring forth recommendations. The SWDC also received a report on the SBCJC Funding Formula Study by Mrs. Deborah Gilbert. Mr. Pete Walley also reported to the SWDC on the restructuring of vocational/technical education system. Also, the SWDC reviewed the Joint Legislative Budget Office presentation.

Mr. Walker reported that the SWDC authorized Mr. Joe Jones to arrange for meetings with editorial boards across the state to publicize the budgetary needs for workforce training.

Mr. Walker distributed a copy of an article from Mahogany that included an article on SBCJC member, Dr. Dorothy Nelson (Exhibit C).

Mr. Walker reported that efforts are continuing to examine ways to tap into federal Workforce Investment Act (WIA) funds to provide training. He stated that a series of meetings has been set for Hattiesburg, Co-Lin, Cleveland, and Itawamba, and on the Mississippi Gulf Coast to discuss options. A summit is planned for the end of October to speak about the community colleges and how the federal money could be utilized to fund training programs.

EdNet Report

Dr. Evelyn Webb gave a report on an EdNet Board meeting on September 16, 2002. EdNet is still in negotiations with a portion of the WorldCom legal staff. The primary purpose of the negotiations is to ensure that EdNet can retain ownership of the equipment being utilized now.

Dr. Webb reported that EdNet staff has made progress in completing a project with the Mississippi Department of Health's Health Alert Network Project. This project will bring EdNet income, and will allow the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency and the Department of Health to begin training across the state.

Dr. Webb stated that all of the ITFS licenses have been renewed until the year 2012. EdNet will forward an invoice for part of the legal fees incurred to the SBCJC in the near future.

Program Report

Dr. Randall Bradberry reported that two students have received scholarships in automobile mechanics programs funded through the Mississippi Wholesalers Association. The recipients of the first two \$500 scholarships are: (1) Mr. Don McCoy from East Mississippi Community

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College and (2) Mr. Tim Buckhalter from Hinds Community College. To qualify for the scholarship a student must have a 3.0 grade point average in high school or at a community college and have a definite financial need. Next year four scholarships will be awarded.

Legislative Report

Dr. Randall Bradberry reported that the special session is currently ongoing to address tort reform. The full Legislature is slated to return Monday.

LBO Report

Dr. Stonecypher reported that the SBCJC hearing has been rescheduled for Monday, September 23, 2002, at 4:00 p.m. Mr. Walker encouraged Board members to attend if possible.

Location of Classes for Fall Term

Dr. Evelyn Webb presented a request from Mississippi Delta Community College to add a Spatial Information Class to teach geographical positioning for an industry in the Delta. The class will be taught at the Mississippi State University Research Experiment Station in Sumrall, Mississippi. Mrs. Veldore Heidelberg made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Brenda Yonge, to approve the Mississippi Delta Community College request to offer Spatial Information at the MSU Research Experiment Station in Sumrall, Mississippi for the Fall 2002 term. Motion passed unanimously.

Finance Report

Ms. Debbie Borgman covered the items on the Finance Committee agenda for information and action.

Upon staff approval, a motion by Mr. Lawrence Warren, and a second by Mrs. Veldore Heidelberg, the Board voted unanimously to approve the October, November, and December General Fund Disbursements from Fund 2298 in the respective amounts of \$5,499,659, \$4,681,567, and \$4,681,567 (Exhibit D).

Upon staff recommendation, a motion by Mrs. Brenda Yonge, and a second by Major General Denver Brackeen, the Board voted unanimously to approve the September 2002, Education Enhancement Fund Disbursement from Funds 4080, 4110, and 3295 in the total amount of \$2,700,222.73 (Exhibit E).

Ms. Borgman presented Financial Statements for Fund 2291 and 3291 for FY 2002 – Lapse Period (Exhibit F) and Fund 2291 and 3291 for FY 2003, as of August 31, 2002 (Exhibit G). No action was required.

Ms. Borgman also presented a report on FY 2002 General Fund Lapses and Special Fund Carryforwards (Exhibit H). No action was required.

Upon a motion by Mr. Lawrence Warren and a second by Mrs. Brenda Yonge, the Board voted unanimously to approve the purchase of equipment funded through the Rural Health Corps grant, in the amount of \$32,852.00.

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Funding Study Update

Dr. Evelyn Webb gave the Board an update on the study of the state funding structure for Mississippi's community and junior colleges. On September 10-12, 2002, Dr. Mary McKeown-Moak from MGT conducted approximately 30 interviews with community college presidents, members of the Mississippi Legislature, and other community college leaders. The purpose of these interviews was to give all constituents an opportunity to share their views/concerns about the funding formula during the research stage of the study.

It is important to the Advisory Committee that once the study is completed, it will be perceived as fair and inclusive. This does not guarantee that everyone will agree with MGT's recommendations, but it is a step in that direction.

At this time the study is on schedule. MGT is scheduled to submit the final written report to the SBCJC on November 1, 2002.

ABE/GED

Mrs. Eloise Richardson is currently on the Mississippi Gulf Coast conducting training sessions for Adult Basic Education instructors. In her absence, Dr. Wayne Stonecypher gave an update on ABE/GED activities. He stated that there is an increase in the number of English as a Second Language (ESL) classes. The U. S. Department of Education has provided \$71,000 in funding for ESL classes. He also reported that offering GED classes on-line is being explored. Currently Co-Lin has the program offered on-line.

Mission Statement for MS Community and Junior College System

Dr. Evelyn Webb presented a Mission Statement for the Community/Junior Colleges System of Mississippi for the Board's review and action (Exhibit I). Ms. Patricia Randall made a motion, seconded by Major General Denver Brackeen, that the SBCJC approve the system wide Mission Statement for the Community/Junior Colleges System of Mississippi. Motion passed unanimously.

Travel Authorizations

Mr. Walker asked if there were requests for travel reimbursements for events other than regularly scheduled Board meetings. Upon a motion by Mr. Lawrence Warren and a second by Mrs. Brenda Yonge, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following travel authorizations:

George Walker for attending SWDC meeting on September 11, 2002, in Jackson, Mississippi.

For any SBCJC member to attend the Joint Legislative Budget Hearing on September 23, 2002, in Jackson, Mississippi.

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OTHER BUSINESS

The Board then viewed an 8 minute video tape presentation prepared for the Joint Legislative Budget Office hearing.

Dr. Larry Day gave the Board an overview of preliminary un-audited enrollment figures for Fall 2003. The total number of students enrolled was 66,090 and reflects a 12% increase over last year's audited figures. Dr. Day also distributed a report of Mississippi Public Community and Junior Colleges showing the percent of enrollment by age categories for the Fall 2001 vs Spring 2002 period (Exhibit J).

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:34 a.m.



Mr. George, Chairman



Dr. Wayne Stonecypher, Executive Director